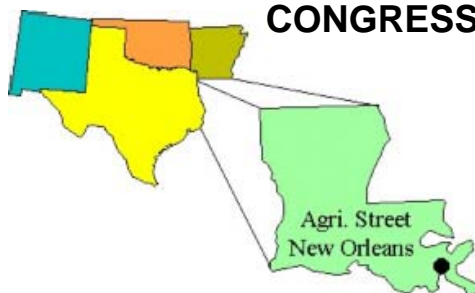


# AGRICULTURE STREET LANDFILL

## Orleans Parish Louisiana

# EPA REGION 6 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 02

EPA ID# LAD981056997  
Site ID: 0600646



Contact: Ursula Lennox  
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Updated: September 2006

## Current Status

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- EPA emergency response personnel continue to work with FEMA and state and local agencies. EPA's efforts in assessing and managing a range of environmental issues, from the disposal of small containers left by the flood waters to the evaluation of potentially impacted Superfund sites is on-going. Investigations confirm the response action implemented at the site was not impacted by the floods. Data results can be accessed through EPA Region 6's web page: [www.epa.gov/region6/katrina](http://www.epa.gov/region6/katrina).
- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality continues to perform bi-annual inspections of the site to ensure the integrity of the permeable cap is maintained and is intact. Inspections were performed on October 21, 2005 and again on December 16, 2005.
- The comment period for the Notice of Intent to Delete the site from the National Priorities List concluded on October 25, 2004. The EPA is negotiating with the city of New Orleans to implement institutional controls. Once this is completed, the deletion process will continue.
- The Moton Elementary School - Operable Unit 4 and Groundwater - Operable Unit 5 were deleted from the Site NPL listing June 15, 2000.

## Benefits

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- The excavation and replacement of contaminated soils and the capping of the undeveloped area eliminated human exposures and protect the health of over 1000 people living on the site. The cleanup addressed 179 Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) town homes, 128 Gordon Plaza apartments, 7 retail businesses, and 58 out of 67 single-family homes located in the Gordon Plaza subdivision. The entire undeveloped property was cleared, grubbed, graded, lined, and covered with 1 foot of fill. A total of 69,031 tons of soil and debris was excavated and collected at the site, and a total of 195,945 cubic yards of backfill was utilized on site. Nine private homeowners in the Gordon Plaza subdivision elected not to participate in the cleanup of their properties.

## National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

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Site Hazard Ranking System Score: 50.00  
Proposed Date: 8/23/94  
Final Date: 12/16/94

## Site Description

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- Location:** The site is located in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. It is approximately three miles south of Lake Ponchartrain and 2.5 to 3.0 miles north-northeast of the Vieux Carre and the Central Business District. The approximate geographic coordinates for the center of the site are 29°59'20" north latitude and 90°02'31" west longitude. The site is bounded on the north by Higgins Road and on the east from Clouet Street (to the south) to Montegut Street (to the north). On the south and west, the site runs along the Southern Railroad right-of-way. The Peoples Avenue and Florida Avenue canals are located west and south of the site, respectively.
- Population:** 390 residential units housing about 1,000 people.
- Setting:** A 95 acre former City disposal area that has been partially redeveloped. Forty-seven (47) acres of the site have private and public housing; the Press Park Community Center; a recreation center; retail businesses; and the Moton Elementary School. The community is predominately African-American. The remainder of the site is undeveloped and covered by dense vegetation.
- Hydrology:** The Peoples Avenue canal is to the west and the Florida Avenue canal is to the south. Both receive storm water run-off from the site. Canal water is pumped into Industrial Canal which discharges into Lake Ponchartrain. A shallow aquifer (that is not a drinking water source) that underlies the site is encountered between 2 and 9 feet below land surface.

## Wastes and Volumes

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- The disposal area accepted municipal garbage, construction debris, incinerator and open burning ash. This type of material ranges in depth from 2 to more than 32.5 feet beneath the 95-acre site.
- The primary contaminants of concern were lead, arsenic, and carcinogenic polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (cPAHs).

### Health Considerations:

- MOTON SCHOOL: No health or environmental problems detected; the school was built on top of 3 to 5 feet of clean fill.
- SHALLOW GROUND WATER: Contaminated with elevated levels of metals. However, this aquifer is not used by humans and does not impact surface water.
- RESIDENTIAL AREAS - SOILS:
  - \* **Surface Contamination (prior to the implementation of the 1997 Action Memorandum) -** Marginal human health risk:
    - 1.3 X 10<sup>-4</sup> lifetime cancer risk (all contaminants of concern);
    - 6.1% children with projected risk (Lead (Pb) concentrations 500 to 1,000 parts per million (ppm)).
  - \* **Future Surface Contamination -** If landfill materials below the top foot of soils were exposed due to human activity, health risks would increase to:
    - 5.0 X 10<sup>-4</sup> lifetime cancer risk (all contaminants of concern);
    - 63.8% children with projected risk (Pb concentrations 1,000 to 4,000 ppm).
- UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY SOILS:
  - \* **Surface Contamination -** Prior to the cleanup, contamination levels on the undeveloped property (OU1) ranged from 37.2 to 28,300 ppm lead. The site was covered with dense vegetation and surrounded with an 8-foot fence.
  - \* **Future Surface Contamination -** City zoned tracts "commercial."

## Record of Decision

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Operable Units 4 & 5: ROD signed 9/2/97  
Operable Units 1-3: Action Memorandum signed 9/2/97  
Operable Units 1-3: ROD signed 4/4/02

The **1997 Record of Decision for Moton Elementary School (OU4) and Groundwater (OU5)** required no further action because there was no risk to human health. The school was built on a three-foot layer of cleanup fill, which addressed all risks posed by this portion of the site. The groundwater was not used for any beneficial purpose and was not a source of drinking water.

The **1997 Action Memorandum response actions for the undeveloped property (OU1), residential properties (OU2), and the Shirley Jefferson Community Center (OU3)** eliminated human risk with capping and soil excavation and replacement. The 48-acre undeveloped property, was cleared of vegetation, capped with 12 inches of soil, graded, and compacted. A layer of geotextile filter fabric was placed on the subgrade to create a physical barrier between clean cover soils and contaminated subsoil. The top 24 inches of existing soil/waste material on the residential properties and community center were excavated and transported off-site for disposal. Permeable geotextile filter fabric was placed on the subgrade and covered with clean fill.

The **2002 Record of Decision for on OU1-3** required no further action as the cleanup under the 1997 Action Memo addressed all contamination.

The site will be inspected at least once every five years.

## Site Contacts

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